

IRG

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1. For those of us who are involved in Freedom of Information and Privacy Act requests from the public, and falling in line with the President's stated position of greater openness in government, we are better able to meet both of these demands if "national security information" or material is properly classified.

2. Classification abuse, that is to say unnecessary or over-classification of material confounds the problems our analysts face in dealing with the public's request for information.

3. Prior to determining levels of classification to be applied to national security information, it is imperative that this Agency have a more definitive position as to what constitutes "intelligence sources and methods" in need of continued protection. With the above, more meaning would be given to the grave damage, serious damage, and the reasonably expected to cause damage tests assigned to levels of classification (valid tests for unauthorized disclosure of such information),

4. It is believed that with a clear and concise meaning for "intelligence sources and methods", the Information Review Group can better meet the purposes of the Freedom of Information and Privacy Acts, promote increased access to information, eliminate unnecessary litigation and, moreover, reduce the costs of government.

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Above document with [redacted] of IRG.
He admitted ^{possibly} overclassification was more of a problem with old documents and the effort to reduce a tendency to overclassify is taking hold. Re sources and methods he was advised of OGC efforts to set a definition (possibly to include declassified material). The pending deliberations offer an opportunity for CIA to present its case re protection of [redacted].